



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

***Raised Bill No. 5137***

LCO No. 461



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:  
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELIGIBILITY OF CHILDREN ENROLLED  
IN THE HUSKY PLAN.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-292 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3 (a) A child who resides in a household with a family income [which]  
4 that exceeds one hundred eighty-five per cent of the federal poverty  
5 level and does not exceed three hundred per cent of the federal  
6 poverty level may be eligible for subsidized benefits under the HUSKY  
7 Plan, Part B.

8 (b) A child who resides in a household with a family income over  
9 three hundred per cent of the federal poverty level may be eligible for  
10 unsubsidized benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part B.

11 (c) Whenever a court or family support magistrate orders a  
12 noncustodial parent to provide health insurance for a child, such  
13 parent may provide for coverage under the HUSKY Plan, Part B.

14 (d) To the extent allowed under federal law, the commissioner shall  
15 not pay for services or durable medical equipment under the HUSKY  
16 Plan, Part B if the enrollee has other insurance coverage for the services  
17 or such equipment.

18 (e) A newborn child who otherwise meets the eligibility criteria for  
19 the HUSKY Plan, Part B shall be eligible for benefits retroactive to his  
20 or her date of birth, provided an application is filed on behalf of the  
21 child not later than thirty days after such date. Any uninsured child  
22 born in a hospital in this state or in a border state hospital shall be  
23 enrolled on an expedited basis in the HUSKY Plan, Part B, provided (1)  
24 the parent or caretaker relative of such child resides in this state, and  
25 (2) the parent or caretaker relative of such child authorizes enrollment  
26 in the program. The commissioner shall pay any premium cost such  
27 family would otherwise incur for the first four months of coverage.

28 (f) The commissioner shall implement presumptive eligibility for  
29 children applying for Medicaid and may, if cost effective, implement  
30 presumptive eligibility for children in families with income under  
31 three hundred per cent of the federal poverty level applying for the  
32 HUSKY Plan, Part B. Such presumptive eligibility determinations shall  
33 be in accordance with applicable federal law and regulations. The  
34 commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,  
35 to establish standards and procedures for the designation of  
36 organizations as qualified entities to grant presumptive eligibility.  
37 Qualified entities shall ensure that, at the time a presumptive eligibility  
38 determination is made, a completed application for benefits is  
39 submitted to the department for a full eligibility determination. In  
40 establishing such standards and procedures, the commissioner shall  
41 ensure the representation of state-wide and local organizations that  
42 provide services to children of all ages in each region of the state.

43 (g) The commissioner shall provide for a single point of entry  
44 servicer for applicants and enrollees under the HUSKY Plan, Part A  
45 and Part B. The commissioner, in consultation with the servicer, shall

46 establish a centralized unit to be responsible for processing all  
47 applications for assistance under the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B.  
48 The department, through its servicer, shall ensure that a child who is  
49 determined to be eligible for benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part A,  
50 or the HUSKY Plan, Part B has uninterrupted health insurance  
51 coverage for as long as the parent or guardian elects to enroll or re-  
52 enroll such child in the HUSKY Plan, Part A or Part B. The  
53 commissioner, in consultation with the servicer, and in accordance  
54 with the provisions of section 17b-297, shall jointly market both Part A  
55 and Part B together as the HUSKY Plan and shall develop and  
56 implement public information and outreach activities with community  
57 programs. Such servicer shall electronically transmit data with respect  
58 to enrollment and disenrollment in the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B  
59 to the commissioner.

60 (h) Upon the expiration of any contractual provisions entered into  
61 pursuant to subsection (g) of this section, the commissioner shall  
62 develop a new contract for single point of entry services. The  
63 commissioner may enter into one or more contractual arrangements  
64 for such services for a contract period not to exceed seven years. Such  
65 contracts shall include performance measures, including, but not  
66 limited to, specified time limits for the processing of applications,  
67 parameters setting forth the requirements for a completed and  
68 reviewable application and the percentage of applications forwarded  
69 to the department in a complete and timely fashion. Such contracts  
70 shall also include a process for identifying and correcting  
71 noncompliance with established performance measures, including  
72 sanctions applicable for instances of continued noncompliance with  
73 performance measures.

74 (i) The single point of entry servicer shall send all applications and  
75 supporting documents to the commissioner for determination of  
76 eligibility. The servicer shall enroll eligible beneficiaries in the  
77 applicant's choice of an administrative services organization. If there is  
78 more than one administrative services organization, upon enrollment

79 in an administrative services organization, an eligible HUSKY Plan,  
80 Part A or Part B beneficiary shall remain enrolled in such organization  
81 for twelve months from the date of such enrollment unless (1) an  
82 eligible beneficiary demonstrates good cause to the satisfaction of the  
83 commissioner of the need to enroll in a different organization, or (2)  
84 the beneficiary no longer meets program eligibility requirements.

85 (j) A child who has been determined to be eligible for benefits under  
86 either the HUSKY Plan, Part A or Part B shall remain eligible for such  
87 plan for a period of not less than twelve months from such child's  
88 determination of eligibility unless the child attains the age of nineteen  
89 or is no longer a resident of the state.

90 ~~[(j)]~~ (k) Not later than ten months after the determination of  
91 eligibility for benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B and  
92 annually thereafter, the commissioner or the servicer [, as the case may  
93 be,] shall, within existing budgetary resources, mail or, upon request of  
94 a participant, electronically transmit an application form to each  
95 participant in the plan for the purposes of obtaining information to  
96 make a determination on continued eligibility beyond the twelve  
97 months of initial eligibility. To the extent permitted by federal law, in  
98 determining eligibility for benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part A or  
99 Part B with respect to family income, the commissioner or the servicer  
100 shall rely upon information provided in such form by the participant  
101 unless the commissioner or the servicer has reason to believe that such  
102 information is inaccurate or incomplete. The Department of Social  
103 Services shall annually review a random sample of cases to confirm  
104 that, based on the statistical sample, relying on such information is not  
105 resulting in ineligible clients receiving benefits under the HUSKY Plan,  
106 Part A or Part B. The determination of eligibility shall be coordinated  
107 with health plan open enrollment periods.

108 ~~[(k)]~~ (l) The commissioner shall implement the HUSKY Plan, Part B  
109 while in the process of adopting necessary policies and procedures in  
110 regulation form in accordance with the provisions of section 17b-10.

111        [(l)] (m) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance  
112        with chapter 54, to establish residency requirements and income  
113        eligibility for participation in the HUSKY Plan, Part B and procedures  
114        for a simplified mail-in application process. Notwithstanding the  
115        provisions of section 17b-257b, such regulations shall provide that any  
116        child adopted from another country by an individual who is a citizen  
117        of the United States and a resident of this state shall be eligible for  
118        benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part B upon arrival in this state.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |  |  |
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| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2014</i> | 17b-292 |
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***Statement of Purpose:***

To provide uninterrupted eligibility for children enrolled in the HUSKY Plan.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*